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*"Thy Liberty in Law"*

EXHIBIT 7

DATE 3-26-07

HB 831

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March 26, 2007

Dear Chairman McNutt, Rep. Erickson, and other members of the House Natural Resource Committee:

On Friday, Rep. Erickson asked me to respond to the Department of Natural Resource's ("DNRC") statement at the House Natural Resources hearing on HB 831 that the bill would create new and numerous litigation opportunities. I have reread the bill and considered the DNRC's statements again. The DNRC has erred in its statement about the process that was clearly outlined in HB 831.

Contrary to the DNRC's flow chart and testimony, HB 831 will not provide many new appeal opportunities. The time an applicant or somebody who is claiming adverse affect can appeal under HB 831 is at the same time in the process that currently exists. HB 831 does not provide new hearings or an appeals process at the time the DNRC determines net depletion, nor at the time the DNRC determines adverse effect, nor at the time the applicant provides a monitoring plan. HB 831 provides for a hearing after the application is complete and the DNRC acts on the application, which is the same process as currently exists.

HB 831, however, does change the amount of information that is in the record upon which DNRC bases its determination. This is good for applicants and senior water rights holders because it provides more structure and certainty in the process, as opposed to forcing people to hire expensive consultants before an application is really complete.

Thank you for this opportunity to answer your questions about whether HB 831 creates new opportunities for appeals and litigation. If HB 831 is not weakened, we would hope the committee will pass the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hertha L. Lund", is written over a horizontal line.

Hertha L. Lund

HLL/rj

APPLICATION FLOW CHART (LC1383)

